

REMARKS

The present Amendment and Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objections and/or rejections raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 22-32 have been allowed. Claims 1-21 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants noted, with appreciation, that the Examiner has allowed claims 22-32.

Remarks to Claim Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

The Office Action of June 4, 2007 rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

The Office Action of June 4, 2007 rejected claims 1-2 and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lemelson (US 3,526,694); rejected claims 1 and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gruber et al. (US 6,231,333); rejected claims 1, 5-14 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dubrow et al. (US 6,488,897); rejected claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 13-14, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Freudenthal et al. (US 6,942,836); and rejected claims 1-3, 5, 9-12, and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Unger et al. (US 6,951,632).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The Office Action of June 4, 2007 rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dubrow et al. (US 6,488,897).

Without conceding appropriateness of the rejections of claims 1-21, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-21 in order to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 1-21 and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

Conclusion

In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this paper. However, if there is any such fee due, please charge any such fee to deposit account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully submitted,

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